

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and apparatus for printing an image on a sheet that is to be subsequently cut from the sheet to a desired dimension or border. Digital image data is provided representing a pictorial image to be printed on the sheet as
5 a hard copy. Information for cutting the sheet with the printed pictorial image is also provided such as by an operator input at a workstation. The image data and the instructions for cutting the sheet are used to print the pictorial image on the sheet with invisible cutting instructions being printed so as to be embedded in the printed pictorial image. The invisible cutting instructions are dispersed within the
10 pictorial image and not necessarily located at locations where cutting is to be made according to the cutting instructions.